Amendments to the Claims:

      This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing Of Claims:

Claims 1-6 (canceled):

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method of controlling a printing apparatus which needs to periodically execute maintenance operation after activation, said printing apparatus having <u>a</u> <u>timer</u> ~~counting means with a power abnormal flag inside said counting means, operated by power~~ ~~supplied from a battery,~~ for counting time on the basis of an internal time<u>, where the timer is</u> <u>operated by power supplied from a local battery and configured to set an internal flag when a</u> <u>power failure of the local battery has occurred</u>, the method comprising:

      setting [[a]] <u>the internal</u> flag in a register <u>of the timer</u> when a ~~battery abnormality~~ <u>a power failure</u> has occurred in ~~said counting means~~ <u>the local battery of the timer</u>;

      ~~determining~~ <u>reading the internal flag to determine</u> whether the ~~battery abnormality~~ <u>power failure</u> has occurred based on the status of the <u>internal</u> flag set in said ~~flag~~ setting <u>the</u> <u>internal flag</u> step;

      ~~refreshing~~ <u>setting an updated time as</u> the internal time ~~with a predetermined time~~ when the ~~battery abnormality~~ <u>power failure</u> has occurred based on the result from said determining step <u>where the updated time reflects correction from an error caused by the power</u> <u>failure of the local battery</u>;

      designating execution of a maintenance operation on the basis of the internal time <u>set in said setting a new time step</u>; and

      clearing the flag after ~~said refreshing step~~ <u>setting the new time at said setting a</u> <u>new time step</u>.

Claim 8 (canceled):

Claim 9 (new) :   The method according to claim 7, wherein said setting a new time step sets

the internal time based on time information transmitted from a host device.

Claim 10 (new):   The method according to claim 7, wherein said setting a new time step sets

the internal time based on an elapsed time from the timer.

Claim 11 (new):   The method according to claim 9, wherein the host device is a personal

computer.

Claim 12 (new):   The method according to claim 9, wherein the host device is either one of

a PDA, a cellular phone or a digital camera.